IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.   (Canceled).

2.   (Currently Amended) The system according to claim [[1]] 29, further comprising:

an internal network of connection nodes connecting said ~~plurality of communication virtualizers~~ virtualizer with said plurality of network-attached store computers;

a computer system providing network attached store service according to a Network File System protocol,

a plurality of communications network adapters by which said computer system connects to said internal communications network, and

a plurality of storage network adapters by which said computer system connects to said internal storage network.

3-4.   (Canceled).

5.   (Currently Amended) The system according to claim [[1]] 29, further comprising Ethernet networking hardware and medium access protocols for facilitating communication within said internal communication network.

6.   (Currently Amended) The system according to claim [[1]] 29, further comprising a Transmission Control Protocol / Internet Protocol suite for facilitating communication between said plurality of network-attached store computers and said plurality of client computers.

7.   (Currently Amended) The system according to claim [[1]] 29, further comprising a storage access protocol for facilitating communication between a storage component within said

internal communications network and remaining components within said internal communications network.

8-9.   (Canceled).

10.   (Currently Amended) The system according to claim [[1]] 29, wherein each of said plurality of communication virtualizers virtualizer comprises a network router.

11.   (Currently Amended) The system according to claim [[1]] 29, further comprising a communication virtualizer file switch connected to a client computer and a server computer for sending requests from one of [[said]] a plurality of client computers to a network-attached store computer and from said network-attached store computer back to said one of said plurality of client computers.

12-17. (Canceled).

18.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[17]] 30, wherein said chosen client computer is configured for:
        receiving said corresponding response from said one of said plurality of communication virtualizers;
        de-packetizing said corresponding response; and
        routing said corresponding response to an initiating said client application.

19.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[12]] 30, wherein said packets are categorized from a zeroth (0th) packet to an ith packet single packer request and said single packet response have a packet sequence number of zero and a set end-of-request flag.

20.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 19, wherein said one of said plurality of communication virtualizers virtualizer determines which of said plurality of network-

attached store computers to transmit said request for storage to by examining said zeroth packet in said request.

21.   (Canceled).

22.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[12]] 30, further comprising:
said ~~one of said plurality of~~ network-attached store ~~computers~~ computer sending a standard Ethernet packet to said ~~one of said plurality of communication vitualizers~~ virtualizer in reply to said request; and
said ~~one of said plurality of communication vitualizers~~ virtualizer dividing said standard Ethernet packet into a plurality of standard Ethernet packets to send to said ~~one of said plurality of~~ client ~~computers~~ computer as a response comprising ~~multiple standard~~ a single Ethernet ~~packets~~ packet.

23-28. (Canceled).

29.   (New) A system for virtualizing multiple network attached stores, said system comprising:
a plurality of network attached stores connected to an internal communications network,
wherein each of said plurality of network attached stores corresponds to a plurality of network attached store computers;
a client computer, running a client application, connected to an external communications network;
a virtualizer connected to said internal communications network and said external communications network,
wherein said virtualizer:
advertises a network address to said client computer for storage, said network address being accessed by a connection-oriented network attached store protocol used by said client computer;

receives a request for storage from said client computer and determines that said request is a single packet request;

determines which single network attached store of said plurality of network attached stores will process said request for storage based on configuration information relating to said plurality of network attached stores; and

routes said request for storage to a single network attached store, corresponding to a single network attached store computer;

wherein said single network attached store computer:

processes said request for storage;

constructs a response, said response including information relating to processing of said request for storage and data to be included in said response;

packetizes said response, as a single packet response and send said single packet response to said virtualizer;

wherein said virtualizer:

determines that said response is a single packet response; and

forwards said response to said client computer; and

wherein said client computer:

passes said response to said client application.

30.   (New) A computer-implemented method for virtualizing multiple network attached stores, the method comprising:

initiating, by a client application running on a client computer, a request for storage;

packetizing, by said client computer, said request for storage as a single packet request;

sending, by said client computer, said request for storage to a network address, advertised by a virtualizer, using a connection-oriented network attached store protocol;

receiving, by said virtualizer, said request for storage;

determining, by said virtualizer that said request is a single packet request;

determining, by said virtualizer, which single network attached store of a plurality of network attached stores will process said request for storage based on configuration information relating to said plurality of network attached stores;

routing said request for storage to said single network attached store;

processing said request for storage in a network attached store computer corresponding to said single network attached store;

constructing a response by said single network attached store computer, said response including information relating to processing of said request for storage and data to be included in said response;

packetizing said response, by said network attached store computer, as a single packet response;

sending, by said network attached store computer said single packet response to said virtualizer;

determining, by said virtualizer, that said response is a single packet response;

forwarding, by said virtualizer, said response to said client computer; and

passing, by said client computer, said response to said client application.